

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John Walter Locher, et al.

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AUG 09 2006

Title: SINGLE CRYSTALS AND METHODS FOR FABRICATING SAME

App. No.: 10/820,468

Filed: April 8, 2004

Examiner: Timothy M. Speer

Group Art Unit: 1775

Customer No.: 34456

Confirmation No.: 7574

Arty. Dkt. No.: 1075-BI4324

*Entered
9/10/06
JWS*

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 9, 2006, reconsideration and withdrawal of the sole rejection contained therein are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1-61 are pending herein, and remain unchanged.

In Applicants' prior response dated November 28, 2005, Applicants addressed the §103 rejection over JP '898 in detail. To summarize, Applicants explained that not only does the prior art fail to disclose or suggest all features of the claimed sapphire single crystal, but also fails to enable formation of such a sapphire single crystal.

In response, in the Final Rejection dated March 9, 2006, the PTO deems the explanation unconvincing, drawn to attorney argument that is unsupported by evidence. To conclusively address the deficiencies of the prior art, submitted herewith is a detailed Rule 132 Declaration made by the first named inventor, John W. Locher. To briefly summarize, the present inventors have developed a notably innovative process flow that incorporates important features to enable growth of the sapphire single crystal as claimed. Those features include utilization of a high